To the Right Honourable the Lords and Commons now Assembled in Parliament.

The *humble Petition of* John Smith *of* Sandwich *Draper, in the behalfe of himself and the Inhabitants of* Margate.

Sheweth,

THat for neer two and thirty years since, untill within six years last past, the Sea-works of *Margate* in the Isle of *Thanet*, were maintained by Scots on the Houses and Lands there, together with part of the benefits of the Peer (the said peer being a great and continuall cause of the devastation of the said works) which Scots were imposed by the Commissioners of Sewers, who then viewed and took care of the said works; during all which time, by the blessing of God, the said Town was preserved, and little or no hurt done by the violence of the Sea. 60

That about six years since, divers persons whose estates lies more backward from the Sea, and in lesse danger; aiming more at their private ends, than the publicke good, questioned the power of the Commissioners, alledging the said Seaworks were not in compasse of the Statute, on which their Commission was granted: whereupon the Commissioners wholly rejected the said workes: and since that time the Sea hath done above four thousand pounds worth of hurt there; and threatens the destruction of the Town. That at the time of the rejecting of their charg of the works, your petitioner was Expenditor of the same works, & had some estate there in housing, did for safeguard thereof, and the Town go on in repair of the said works; towards which he was forced to borrow two hundred pound upon his own band (for which he still paies use for) his Scot granted him by the Commissioners being deni'd to be paid him; But after great charges upon the said works, by the late violence of the Sea, a great part of the Jetty-works were taken away for want of due reparations, whereupon your petitioner, finding the burden insupportable for himselfe alone to undergo, & considering what the miserable event would be if neglected, did gain a Certificate from the Maior and Jurats of *Dover*, under the Town Seal (in whose jurisdiction *Margate* is) of the great danger the said

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ſaid Town was in, with a Petition ſubſcribed by many of the Inhabitants of *Margate*, wherein was deſired Timber for the preſent makimg up of the ſaid works, and a Scot as formerly continued; which Petition and Certificate was preſented to the right honourable Committee of Admiralty & Cinque Ports; and thereupon an order was made & directed to ſome Knights and Gentlmen neer *Margate* to view the ſaid works, and to report the danger, and charge of repair to that Committee, as by the Order annexed appears: who with experienced workmen meaſured and caſt up the charge, and made report of it accordingly, as by the Report alſo appears: upon which report the Committee of the Admiralty (after along and chargeable attendance) made a further Order: wherein they declared what they conceived fitting to be done therein. And in regard the ſame works lay within the juriſdiction of the Sinque-Ports, they thought fit to recommend the buſineſſe to both Houſes of Parliament, either to be by them confirmed, or otherwiſe ordered, as to their wiſdomes ſhould ſeem meet; as by that Order alſo appears. But by reaſon of the Kingdomes more weighty buſineſſe, your Petitioner as yet hath had no further order or redreſſe heerin, although the Sea hath done above five thouſand punds worth of hurt within four years paſt, though in the interim, and for theſe ſix years paſt, your Petitioner hath defended a great part of the Town at his own charge, and expended the ſumme of four hundred eighty pounds eighteen ſhillings and eight pence, as by a particular accompt under the workmens hands appears; beſides his charges in ſoliciting of the buſineſſe, amounting to above three hundred pounds, and in the neglect, loſſe and hinderance of his trade, to at leaſt ſix hundred and fifty pounds, without any peny recompence; which will be to his ſudden ruine and deſtruction, if not relieved by your Honours.

May it therefore pleaſe your honours to conſider of the premiſſes, and that a place of ſuch conſequence where Embaſſadors and perſons of great quality take ſhiping, and are landed, may not be quite overwhelmed, and the eſtate of your Petitioner, and many others quite deſtroyed, and their wives, children and families ruined) to be pleaſed ſpeedily to Order, that ſufficient Timber may be allowed, ſo as the preſent breaches may be timely repaired. and for time to come upheld, by Scots on the houſes and lands there, and by a poundage upon commodities exported and imported from and to the ſaid Iſland; That the Peer Wardens may be yearly accomptable to the Maior and Jurats of Dover, *for the money by them received and expended about the ſame, a moiety of the overplus to be allowed yearly towards the ſaid Works; and that your Petitioner may be ſpeedily ſatisfied his ſaid diſburſments about the ſaid Works.*

And Your Petitioner ſhall ever pray, &c.

Die

Die Jovis, 18. *Novemb.* 1647.

At the Committee of Lords and Commons for the Admiralty and Cinque-Ports

IN reading the Petition of *John Smith* Expenditor for the Works againſt *Margate*, concerning the deficiency of the ſaid Works, his charg s in attending that buſineſſe of the Iſle of *Thanet*, the delaies uſed by ſome that have addreſſed their Petition to this Committee in oppoſition of his; by their not ſtanding to what had been mutually agreed before ſome of this Committee, and propoſing away for repaire of the ſaid Works, and keeping of them for the future.

Ordered that *Henry Criſp* Eſquire, *George Sumner*, *William Coppin*, *Thomas Wheatley*, *Edward Brooks*, and *Stephen Biſhop*, doe attend this Committee on this day three weeks, by themſelves or ſome of them, or ſome other on their behalf, ſufficiently inſtructed to anſwer the ſaid Petition, and failing thereof, this Committee will proceed to ſettle ſuch reſolution upon *John Smiths* ſa id Petition, as ſhall appear moſt meet, without further delay.

Signed by my Lord of Warwick, *and others of the ſaid Committee.*

A true Copie of the Agreement which the Iſland-men, before the Committee of the Admiralty agreed on, but now fall from, and refuſed to ſet their hands to: Here followeth,

UPon debate before the Honourable Committee of Lords and Commons, for the Admiralty and Cinque-ports, of the matter in difference touching the repairing, ſuſtaining, and keeping of Jetty-workes againſt the Sea at *Margate*, in the Iſle of *Thanet*, for preventing the deſtruction and ſwallowing up of the ſaid Town of *Margate*, by the violence of the Sea breaking in upon it. And upon hearing of *John Smith*, Expenditor for the ſaid Town, and his councell on the one ſide. And of Sir *Henry Criſp*, *Henry Criſp* Eſq. *Richard Hartie*, *Jeffery Sandwell*, *John Broxland*, *Marke Ambroſe*, *Tho. Smith* Senior, *George Sonner*, *John Tomblin*, *Wil. Copin*, *John Pannell*, *James Hannaker*, and *Richard Jenvey*, and their Councell on the other ſide. Upon the whole buſineſſe there aroſe two Queſtions. The firſt, How the ſaid Jetty-works might for the preſent be repaired, and for the future maintained, ſo that the Sea might be kept from breaking in, and the ſaid Town might be preſerved? The ſecond, How the ſaid *Smith*, the Expenditor might be ſatisfied and reimburſed the monies

and charges he had laid out, and been at in this publique and common buſineſſe, for the time paſt? And as to the firſt, the ſaid Sir *Henry Criſp*, *Henry Criſp* Eſq. *Richard Hartie*, *Jeffery Sandwell*, *John Broxland*, *Marke Ambroſe*, *Tho. Smith*, Senior, *George Sommer*, *John Tomblin*, *Wil. Coppin*, *John Parnell*, *James Hannaker*, *Richard Fenvey*, and their Councell did offer, That if the repairing of the ſaid Jetty-workes and the keeping thereof, might be entruſted to them, they would with 200. Tunne of Timber, to be allowed unto them for the ſaid worke for the preſent ſufficiently repair the ſaid Jetty-works, and make them defenſive againſt the Sea, and ſafe guard and preſerve the ſaid Town of *Margate*, and every part thereof, and of the Lands thereto belonging, againſt the violence and breaking in of the Sea, as well for the preſent as for the future for ever hereafter, without any further tax, allowance or charge, to be yeilded, made, paid or impoſed therefore, but only a ſcot, or tax of 12. pence in the pound, to be levied and paid out of the Houſes erected againſt the ſaid workes, and to be paid but once in the year and no oftner. And for the performance thereof in every particular, *viz.* as well for the preſent repairing, as future ſufficient keeping the ſame for ever, upon the rate aforeſaid, and without any further demand. The ſaid parties before mentioned did by themſelves and their Councell, make offer, to put in ſufficient Security, as this Committee or the Honourable Houſes ſhould approve and like of; which being accepted and yielded unto by the ſaid *Smith* the Expenditor; the Committee thought fit that the ſame ſhould be ſubſcribedby the ſaid parties, to remain with this Committee, or be preſented to the Honourable Houſes, as ſhould be requiſite.

And as to the ſecond Queſtion, touching the charge and diſburſments of the ſaid *Smith*, for that the parties could not agree upon the ſame, nor how and in what manner they had been laid out. It was humbly praied, That a Commiſſion might be ordered to iſſue out of the Court of Admiralty of the Cinque-ports, to examine witneſſes upon ſuch matters, interrogations, and queſtions, as the ſaid *Smith* for his part might ſee cauſe for the better aſcertaining of the ſaid diſburſments, and charges by him expended; And wherein the ſaid other parties might joyn and counter examine likewiſe if they thought meet. That ſo examinations being duly taken, they might be returned to this Committee, whereupon this Committee might be truly informed of the true ſtate of the matter; and ſo give ſuch order for relief of the ſaid *Smith*, as they ſhould hold juſt and equitable.

A certificate from the Inhabitants of Margate, *ſhewing the ſad and lamentable condition that the ſaid Town is in, by reaſon of a late breach which the Sea made; which might have been prevented, had the Iſland men ſtood to the forementioned Agreement. A true copie whereof here followeth.*

To

To the Right Honorable the Committee for the *Admiralty and the Cinque-Ports.*

THeſe are further to informe your Honors, That whereas the Jetties of *Margate*, in the Iſle of *Thanet*, and County of *Kent*; and the great danger of the ſaid Town, have many times and late been diſcuſſed before your Honors, and whereupon your Honors out of a commiſſeration, and due conſideration, of the danger of the ſaid Town and Inhabitants there; have been favourably pleaſed to grant ſome convenient quantity of Timber, for the better defence of the ſaid Town and Inhabitants there, againſt that raging and mercileſſe Element, the Sea. And whereas it hath pleaſed God on Sonday laſt paſt, (being the 12. day of this inſtant *March*,) to ſend a moſt tempeſtuous tyde, againſt the ſaid Town, (as at other places) by reaſon whereof, a great part of the ſaid workes is broken down, and ſome part of a Houſe of this bearer *John Smith*, is demolliſhed; and whereas not only the eſtate there of the ſaid *John Smith*, but of many other the Inhabitants of the ſaid Town, are (if not very ſpeedily ſecured) like to come to utter ruine and decay.

The premiſes conſidered, May it yet again pleaſe your Honors, to take the deplorable condition of the ſaid Town and Inhabitants, into your ſpeedy and mature conſideration, and to afford ſuch a quantity of Timber for the defence of the ſaid Town and Inhabitants; and alſo to appoint and ordain ſome able man (whom your Honors ſhall thinke fit) to take care of the ſaid workes, as in an exigence of ſo much concernment and danger is required.

In witneſſe whereof, we your Honours humble petitioners have ſubſcribed our hands (Inhabitants of the ſaid Town) the 13. day of *March*, *Anno ſalutis*, 1647.

Subſcribed by the Inhabitants of Margate.

To the Right Honourable the Committee of the *Cinque-Ports and Admiralty.*

May it pleaſe this Honorable Committee:

WE whoſe names are here under written (Inhabitants of the Town and Port of *Sandwich*) doe humbly certifie (being thereunto requeſted) unto your Honors in the name, and behalf of *John Smith*, (one of our ſaid

Town) That (to our knowledge) he hath been a man alwaies wel-affected to the Parliament, in their actings, and proceedings for the publique Interest, welfare, and happinesse of the Kingdome; And in order thereunto he hath declared his forwardnesse, (we believe beyond his abilities) in contributions and subscriptions for Horse, Plate, and Monies, and in regard he hath (as we are informed, through the opposition of some ill-affected persons) suffered much in his estate (sundry waies) by his long attending on his businesse of *Margate*, in the Isle of *Thanet*; (which if effected we believe would tend to a Publike good, and benefit.)

We, (your humble servants, considering the premises) doe humbly beseech and request, this Honorable Committee, for to consider his cause, and to answer his desire, (which we are confident of) as your Honors apprehend them just: and with what convenient expedition it may be; which otherwise (considering also his great charges and expences in prosecuting therof) may prove to be to the extreame wrong and dammage (if not the utter undoing) of himself, and his Family.

Humbly represented and subscribed, by the Major and Jurets, &c.

Die Sabba. 27. *February* 1646.

At the Committee of Lords and Commons for the Admiralty and Cinque-Ports.

ON consideration of a Petition presented to this Committee, by *John Smith Expenditor* for *Margate* in the Isle of *Thanet* in the County of *Kent*, in behalf of himself, and the Inhabitants, and owners of the houses and lands lying against the Sea at *Margate* aforesaid; the same setting forth the great danger the said Town is in of being carried to Sea, and the great losse already befallen the estates of many the Inhabitants; by the carrying of many of their houses already to Sea, through the decay of certain Jetty works heretofore made for defence thereof; and praying that Timber may be appointed for repair of the same; as also that money may be raised for the perfecting thereof, out of the arrears of a Scot of two shillings per pound, heretofore charged upon the houses and lands there; and of another Scot of thirty six pound

pound *per Annu.* laid upon the Peer of *Margate*, by the Commissioners of Sewers for the East of *Kent*, about twenty five years ago, the paying thereof having been for some years discontinued: and that for the future maintaining thereof, the said Scots may be continued; or that in liew of a moiety of two shillings *per* pound, reasonable poundage may be set down upon certain commodities going in and out of the said Island, a list of which commodities, and of rates proposed to be set upon them respectively was now presented, and upon reading a Certificate from some Gentlemen of the County of *Kent*, to whom the State thereof was referred by the Committee, to be viewed and certified; they thereby setting forth, That the said Jetty works, being by them surveied, and workmen consulted with; They found that fifty five Rods of Timber-work is in decay, which requiring double work will take up six hundred and five Tun of Oaken Timber, that the workmanship will amount to as much or more charge, than the Timber; and there will need a continuall charge to keep it for the future: And for that this Committee is informed by some Members of both Houses, that they have viewed the same, and finde the defect and danger of the said Town to be very great; and for as much as the same is within the jurisdiction of the Cinque-Ports, this Committee doth thereby conceive it their duty to represent it to both Houses of Parliament, and doth recommend it to them, that the present defects may be repaired, and sufficient Timber for that end allowed; and that the Town may in time to come be secured, by a Scot upon the said Houses and lands, or by a poundage upon commodities exported and imported, from and to the said Island, or otherwise, as they in their wisdomes shall think fit; as also that consideration may be had of the Petitioner *John Smith*, his disbursments for the upholding of the said works (which by his Petition is alledged to amount unto four hundred and twenty pounds) in such a way as they shall think meet; he having offer'd (as by the said Certificate is mention'd, upon allowance of a moiety of the said Scot, & of a poundage on the said commodities, to perform the said work (being first furnished with timber as aforesaid) and to engage an estate of a thousand pound value to keep the same for ever.

And it is lastly Ordered, That a Copy of the said Certificate and of the Schedule of rates upon the said commodities be annexed to this Report.

WARWICK.

Whereas the Jetty-works of Margate in the Isle of Thanet, *according to an Order of the Right Honourable Committee of the Admiralty and Cinque-Ports, being surveied by us* James Oxenden *Knight, Major* Boyce *Esq*; Henry Crisp, *Esq*; ; *and we calling three sufficient Carpenters to measure the works, it was found to be in decay, as following.*

That

1. That there was 55. rods of worke measured and found in decay, each of which rods was conceived would take up 5. Tunns and half of Timber for single workes, and for double workes so much more, and the same requiring all double worke, it will take up in the whole 605. Tunns of Oaken Timber.

2. That the workmanship for Carpenters, Sawyers, and other workmen, will amount to as much or more charges, then the Timber to compleat the said workes.

3. That it will require a constant and continuall charge in repairing, upholding and keeping the same workes.

4. That if the now Expenditor *John Smith*, may be yearly allowed 12. pence in the pound upon all Houses and Lands, which for 25. years past paid 2. shillings in the pound, as appears by Scot. And also if he may receive according to the rates of, and upon the particular commodities set down and expressed in a Schedule hereunto annexed, and as this Honorable House shall thinke fit, and as is used in other maritan Towns, he is willing to undertake to performe the said worke, being furnished with Timber sufficient as aforesaid, and will engage 1000l. Lands and Houses in the said Island, for performance and keeping of the said workes for ever, he being the fittest man for the same, as being already entrusted for by the said Town, and the said Town being now in most eminent danger to be lost, if not speedily helped, as aforesaid.

JAMES OXENDEN.

Having about eight months past, with the Lieutenant of *Dover* Castle, and Mr. *Henry Crisp*, surveighed the dangerous condition of *Margate*, I did finde that there is fifty five rods or thereabouts, which of necessity must be maintained against the rage of the Sea, and did also finde by the judgement of able workmen then present, that the premises will require the Timber and expence here above mentioned.

HENRY HEYMAN.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE, THE Commons of England In Parliament Assembled.

The humble Petition of divers wel affected Persons inhabiting the City of London, *Westminster, the Borough of Southwark, Hamblets, and places adjacent.*

With the Parliaments Answer thereunto.

SHEWETH,

THat although we are as earnestly desirous of a safe and wel-grounded Peace, and that a finall end were put to all the troubles and miseries of the Common-wealth, as any sort of men whatsoever: Yet considering upon what grounds we engaged on your part in the late and present Wars, and how far (by our so doing) we apprehend our selves concerned, Give us leave (before you conclude as by the Treaty in hand) to acquaint you first with the ground and reason which induced us to aid you against the King and his Adherents. Secondly, What our Apprehensions are of this Treaty. Thirdly, What we expected from you, and do still most earnestly desire.

Be pleased therefore to understand, that we had not engaged on your part, but that we judged this honourable House to be the supream Authority of *England*, as chosen by, and representing the People; and entrusted with absolute power for redresse of Grievances, and provision for Safety: and that the King was but at the most the chief publike Officer of this Kingdom, and accomptable to this House (the Representative of the People, from whom all just Authority is, or ought to be derived) for discharge of his Office: And if we had not bin confi-